

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SCCT-02 DRC-01 ( ISO ) W

----- 077515

R 121720Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5459

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PBOR, EI

SUBJ: SENATOR ASSASSINATED

1. BILLY FOX, AN IRISH SENATOR AND EX-DEPUTY, WAS KIDNAPPED NEAR NI BORDER MARCH 11 BY DOZEN ARMED MEN, THEN SHOT. FOX WAS PROTESTANT, A MEMBER OF FINE GAEL PARTY, AND VERY WELL KNOWN IN HIS COUNTY MONAGHAN AREA.

2. DURING EARLY DAYS OF NI TROUBLE, ANOTHER DEPUTY IN DAIL CALLED HIM A "B SPECIAL" (MEMBER OF SPECIAL PROTESTANT POLICE AUXILIARY IN NI), THEN WITHDREW REMARK. LATER, FOX PARTICIPATED IN FILLING IN BORDER ROADS CRATERED BY BRITISH ARMY, ANGERING SOME PROTESTANTS. PRESS REPORT THAT POLICE SUSPECT IRA OF ASSASSINATION, BUT PROVOS HAVE REPORTEDLY DENIED RESPONSIBILITY. SO FAR, NO ONE HAS ADVANCED ANY LOGICAL IRA MOTIVE EITHER FOR KILLING FOX OR FOR ENDING POLICY OF NON-VIOLENCE IN REPUBLIC. PROTESTANT EXTREMISTS FROM NI COULD HAVE FOUND MOTIVE FOR KILLING SOUTHERN POLITICIAN. EXTREMISTS FROM BOTH SIDES CAN EASILY OPERATE IN BORDER AREA.

3. MORNING PAPERS MARCH 12 ALSO REPORT THAT KENNETH LITTLEJOHN ESCAPED

JAIL. HE WAS CONVICTED OF BANK ROBBERY BUT CLAIMED, PLAUSIBLY,

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TO HAVE SPIED ON IRA FOR BRITISH INTELLIGENCE. AS DEPT WILL RECALL,

DISCLOSURE OF LITTLEJOHN'S BRITISH CONNECTION CAUSED EX-PM  
JACK LYNCH TO THREATEN RESIGNATION AS LEADER OF OPPOSITION.

4. COMMENT: EVEN IN NI, ASSASSINATION OF POLITICIANS HAS BEEN  
RARE, THOUGH MANY HAVE BEEN THREATENED. FOX IS FIRST SOUTHERN  
POLITICIAN TO BE MURDERED IN DECADES. FOR GOI, THIS EVENT OBVIOUSLY  
INCREASES SECURITY PROBLEM. WHEN FOX MURDER IS COUPLED WITH LITTLE-  
JOHN AFFAIR, GOI IS ALSO WIDE OPEN TO POLITICAL CRITICISM FOR  
LAXITY ON SECURITY. SORENSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ASSASSINATION, PARAMILITARY FORCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974DUBLIN00323  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SENATOR ASSASSINATED  
**TAGS:** PINT, PBOR, EI, IRA, (FOX, BILLY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005